

GOD'S INTENTION FOR OUR WORK

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:15-25

Genesis 3:14-21

Genesis 4:19-22

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What kind of work do you do on a day-to-day basis? What is your attitude toward your work or how do you feel about the work you do? When you describe it to others, what type of language do you use?
- How does your faith relate to your work?

How much of your life do you spend working - either in an official or unofficial, paid or unpaid capacity? Reflecting on work from a biblical perspective can have a profound and surprising effect on our attitude towards work. Studying the opening chapters of Genesis provides great insight on God's intentions for work and a better understanding of the relationship between the work we do, the impact sin has on our work, and God's calling for us.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Does knowing that work is not just the result of sin but instead a part of life ordained by God as part of his created design change your attitude toward work? Why or why not?
- Why do you think recognizing your identity as an image bearer of God is important for understanding the role of work in your life?
- How does the cultural mandate (Genesis 1:28) and the call to cultivate and care for creation relate to the work you do on a daily basis?
- Consider how your current work, whether paid or unpaid, contributes toward the betterment of human society and creation. What effect does the way you do your work have on that contribution? How do you think the fall into sin has affected your work?
- While discussing the cultural mandate in his book *Engaging God's World; A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living*, Cornelius Plantinga reminds us that "the creation story doesn't end with a work order. The first account of creation stops after a seventh day...our work is important, but not indispensable. Our work is important, but so is rest from work." What does this idea add to your understanding of and perspective on work and on God's call for us to work?

Related Passages

- **Psalm 8**
- **Matthew 22:35-40**
- **Colossians 3:23-24**

Conclusion

Reflect on these statements from [*Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*](#):

*Made in God's image
to live in loving communion with our Maker,
we are appointed earthkeepers and caretakers
to tend the earth, enjoy it,
and love our neighbors.
God uses our skills
for the unfolding and well-being of his world
so that creation and all who live in it may flourish.
- Our World Belongs to God, st. 10*

Write a prayer in response to what you've learned about work and vocation, include words of confession, gratitude, petition, and praise.

<https://groundwork.reframedia.com/episodes/gods-intention-for-our-work>

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